

## **SAFE DELIVERY FACT SHEET**

Enacted on January 1, 2001, Safe Delivery allows for the anonymous surrender of a newborn infant (within 72 hours of birth) to an Emergency Service Provider (ESP) without the expressed intent to return for the newborn. ESP's are defined as staff inside the premises of a hospital, fire department or police station. The intent of this law was to allow for an anonymous safe surrender of the newborn without fear of prosecution and to make the child available for adoption. Private agencies assume responsibility for the child as soon as medical authorities determine that the child has not been neglected or abused and that the child is no more than 72 hours old.

### **2001 Statistics:**

**Number of attempted surrenders: 13**

#### **Counties involved:**

- Crawford 1
- Isabella 1
- Kalamazoo 1
- Oakland 5
- Wayne 4
- Muskegon 1

**Actual Surrenders: 7**

#### **Reasons for non- surrenders:**

- Parents reconsidered and returned for the child
- Judge ruled that parents were not given appropriate information required by statute.
- Child surrendered to EMS personnel outside a designated ESP facility.
- Mother & father petitioned for the child to be returned.
- Infant tested positive for cocaine
- Judge rescinded the petition to surrender.

### **2002 Statistics:**

- 3/3/02 Infant abandoned by 23-year-old mother in a trash bin outside her home in Detroit. The infant was hospitalized at St John Hospital.

- 9/28/02 A 25 year old woman gave birth to a son at home and left the baby in a clothes hamper. The infant was found dead. Both the mother and infant tested positive for cocaine and marijuana. (Oakland County)
- 10/28/02 Teenager gives birth to a child while barricaded in the bathroom at Providence Hospital in Southfield. The infant was found dead.

## **2003 Statistics**

### **Number of surrenders: 5**

- 2/2/03 Washtenaw County
- 3/15/03 Oakland County
- 4/27/03 Isabella County Children's Protective Services notified of an abandoned infant possibly 2-3 days old that was left on the doorstep of a private residence in Clare County. The child was hospitalized.
- 5/8/03 Lenawee County
- 5/16/03 Kent County
- 10/1/03 Kent County
- 10/27/03 Shiawassee County-attempted surrender at an Owosso hospital. The hospital decided it did not meet the requirements of a Safe Delivery case as they failed to provide the mother with the information on Safe Delivery and CPS was contacted.
- 10/29/03 Kalamazoo County infant was left at the hospital but tested positive for drugs. CPS was contacted.

## **2004 Statistics**

### **Number of surrenders: 5**

2/13/04 Monroe County: Newborn was delivered and surrendered at hospital.

4/8/2004 Wayne County: Teenager abandoned infant on doorstep; infant was then taken to the hospital. CPS was contacted.

5/3/2004 Emmet County: Newborn was delivered and surrendered at hospital. Neither mother or father signed a release.

5/23/04 Oakland County: Twenty-three year old woman delivered and surrendered a newborn at hospital.

5/26/04 Crawford County: Thirty-eight year old woman delivered and surrendered a newborn at hospital.

6/17/04 Oakland County: Woman of unknown age delivered a premature infant that was transported to Children's Hospital (Detroit); Father was not initially identified but came forward and is attempting to establish paternity. Initially, the child's ongoing poor health and need to stay in Neo-natal ICU until 7-7-04 prevented the filing of a petition. With father's involvement, it is unlikely that this child will be eligible for adoption under the Safe Delivery law.

9/24/04 Eaton County: Newborn was found abandoned in a local park. CPS was contacted. The child is in good health. Because the child was abandoned, this would not be considered a surrender under the Safe Delivery law.

9/30/04 Kent County. A woman of unknown age brought a newborn to a hospital and indicated that she wished to surrender the infant under the Safe Delivery Law. The child was placed in a pre-adoptive home through a local adoption agency.